

ADDENDUM TO THE 2004-05 TANZANIA DEMOGRAPHIC AND HEALTH SURVEY

INFANT AND YOUNG CHILD FEEDING (IYCF) PRACTICES

Appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices include breastfeeding through the age of two years, the introduction of solid and semisolid foods at age 6 months, and a gradual increase in the amount of food given and the frequency of feeding as the child gets older. The average, healthy **breastfed child** should receive solid and semisolid foods 2-3 times per day at age 6-8 months and 3-4 times per day at age 9-23 months, with an additional snack 1-2 times per day. The minimum frequencies for feeding children in developing countries are based on the energy output of complementary foods. The energy needs of children are based on age-specific total daily energy requirements, plus 2 SD (to cover almost all children), minus the average energy intake from breast milk. Infants with low breast-milk intake need to be fed more frequently than those with high breast-milk intake. However, care should be taken that feeding frequencies do not exceed recommended input from complementary foods because excessive feeding can result in displacement of breast milk (PAHO/WHO, 2003).

Although the World Health Organization recommends that infants be breastfed up to the age of two years, some infants are not breastfed at all, or stopped breastfeeding before their second birthday. Guidelines have been developed for these children, who may not have been breastfed because their mother was HIV-positive, or because their mother had died, or for other reasons (WHO, 2005). It is recommended that the **nonbreastfed child** be given solid and semisolid foods 4-5 times per day at age 6-23 months, with an additional snack 1-2 times per day.

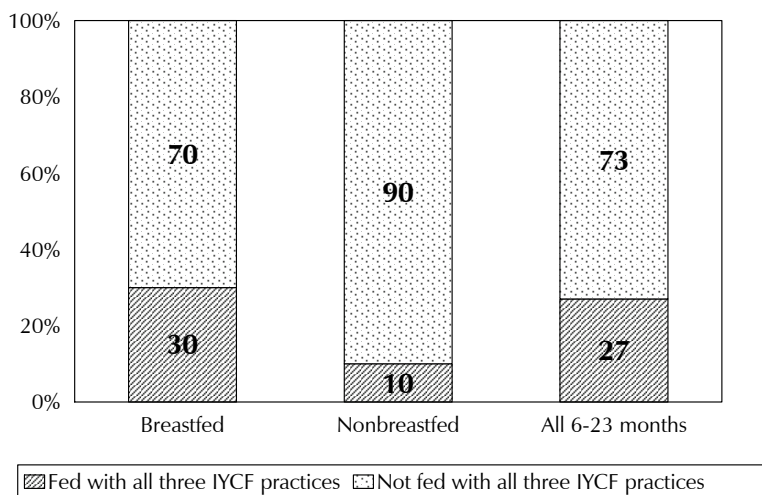
Appropriate nutrition includes feeding children a variety of foods to ensure that nutrient requirements are met. Studies have shown that plant-based complementary foods by themselves are not sufficient to meet the needs of some children for certain micronutrients (WHO/UNICEF, 1998). Therefore, it is advised that children eat meat, poultry, fish, or eggs daily, or as often as possible. Vegetarian diets may not meet children's nutrient requirements unless supplements or fortified foods are also provided. Vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables should be consumed daily, and the diets of children should include an adequate amount of fat. Fat is important in the diets of infants and young children because it provides essential fatty acids, facilitates absorption of fat-soluble vitamins (such as vitamin A), and enhances dietary energy density and palatability. Tea and coffee are not recommended for children because they contain compounds that inhibit iron absorption. Sugary drinks and excessive juice consumption should be avoided because other than energy they contribute little to the diet and decrease the child's appetite for more nutritious foods (PAHO/WHO, 2003).

In summary,

- Breastfed children age 6-23 months should receive animal-source foods and vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables daily (PAHO/WHO, 2003). Because first foods almost always include a grain- or tuber-based staple, it is unlikely that young children who eat less than three food groups will receive both an animal-source food and a vitamin A-rich fruit or vegetable. Therefore, three food groups are considered the minimum number appropriate for breastfed children (Arimond and Ruel, 2004).
- Breastfed infants age 6-8 months should receive complementary foods 2-3 times per day, with 1-2 snacks; breastfed children age 9-23 months should be receive meals 3-4 times per day, with 1-2 snacks (PAHO/WHO, 2003). The table below shows the percentage of breastfed children who were fed at least the minimum number of times per day for their age (i.e., twice for infants age 6-8 months and three times for children age 9-23 months).
- Nonbreastfed children age 6-23 months should receive milk or milk products to ensure that their calcium needs are met. In addition, they need animal-source foods and vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables. Four food groups are considered the minimum number appropriate for nonbreastfed young children.
- Nonbreastfed children age 12-23 months should be fed meals 4-5 times per day, with 1-2 snacks (WHO, 2005). The table shows the percentage of nonbreastfed children age 6-23 who were fed at least the minimum number of times per day (i.e., four times).

According to the results presented in the table below, 91 percent of (youngest) Tanzanian children age 6-23 months living with the mother received breast milk or breast milk substitutes during the 24-hour period before the survey, 54 percent had an adequately diverse diet—i.e., they had been fed foods from the appropriate number of food groups depending on their age and breastfeeding status—and 44 percent had been fed the minimum standard number of times appropriate for their age. Feeding practices of only 27 percent Tanzanian children age 6-23 months met the minimum standard with respect to all three of these feeding practices (see figure below).

Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Practices, Tanzania 2004-05



Breastfed children were more likely to be fed the minimum number of times and less likely to receive foods from the minimum number of groups than nonbreastfeeding children. Children in the age group of 12-18 months are most likely to comply with minimum feeding standards, 33 percent. Regional differences in the feeding practices of children are apparent in the 2004 Tanzania results; children residing in Pwani region are six times more likely to be fed according to the three IYCF practices compared with only 10 percent of children of Kigoma and Pemba South regions. However, these results should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of children from different regions in Tanzania. Children residing in urban areas are also more likely to be fed according to the recommended IYCF guidelines, 35 percent, compared with children residing in rural areas, 26 percent. As expected, children of mothers with secondary or higher education and in the highest wealth quintile are most likely to be fed with the recommended feeding practices.

Arimond, M., and M.T. Ruel. 2004. Dietary Diversity is Associated with Child Nutritional Status: Evidence from 11 Demographic and Health Surveys. *Journal of Nutrition* 134: 2579.

Pan-American Health Organization and World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO). 2003. *Guiding Principles for Complementary Feeding of the Breastfed Child*. Washington, D.C. and Geneva, Switzerland: PAHO/WHO.

World Health Organization (WHO). 2005. *Guiding Principles for Feeding Nonbreastfed Children 6 to 24 Months of Age*. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO.

World Health Organization and United Nations Children’s Fund (WHO/UNICEF). 1998. *Complementary Feeding of Young Children in Developing Countries: A Review of Current Scientific Knowledge*. Geneva: World Health Organization, WHO/NUT98.1.

Addendum Table: Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices in Tanzania

Percentage of youngest children age 6-23 months living with their mother who are fed according to three IYCF feeding practices based upon number of food groups and times they are fed during the day or night preceding the survey by breastfeeding status and background characteristics, Tanzania 2004-05

Background characteristic	Among breastfed children 6-23 months, percentage fed:				Among nonbreastfed children 6-23 months, percentage fed:				Among all children 6-23 months, percentage fed:					
	3+ food groups ¹	Minimum times or more ²	Both 3+ food groups and minimum times or more	Number of children (weighted)	Milk or milk products ³	4+ food groups	4+ times or more	With 3 IYCF practices ⁴	Number of children (weighted)	Breast milk or milk products	3+ or 4+ food groups ⁵	Minimum times or more ⁶	With all 3 IYCF practices	Number of children (weighted)
Age														
6-8	35.4	54.8	22.8	448	16.4	*	*	*	11	98.0	34.6	53.5	22.3	459
9-11	56.7	36.2	25.4	434	39.0	*	*	*	12	98.4	55.8	35.3	24.7	446
12-17	62.0	50.3	34.5	764	44.5	40.1	29.6	18.6	96	93.8	59.6	48.0	32.7	860
18-23	69.4	50.6	35.9	462	37.4	39.7	21.4	7.9	260	77.4	58.7	40.1	25.8	722
Sex														
Male	55.4	46.7	29.0	1,058	33.4	32.4	25.4	8.7	190	89.9	51.9	43.5	25.9	1,248
Female	58.4	50.1	31.9	1,050	43.9	44.0	19.1	11.6	190	91.4	56.2	45.4	28.8	1,240
Residence														
Urban	70.3	50.7	38.3	397	47.8	54.6	34.8	17.6	80	91.2	67.6	48.0	34.8	477
Rural	53.8	47.9	28.6	1,711	36.2	33.8	18.9	8.1	299	90.5	50.8	43.6	25.5	2,010
Region														
Dodoma	43.1	57.3	29.1	103	*	*	*	*	18	88.7	39.5	48.9	24.8	120
Arusha	68.8	46.6	35.2	72	*	*	*	*	8	97.4	69.6	47.3	36.5	80
Kilimanjaro	(64.2)	(81.5)	(58.3)	42	*	*	*	*	8	93.5	63.5	73.1	51.3	49
Tanga	54.4	49.9	22.9	90	*	*	*	*	6	95.1	51.8	46.7	21.4	96
Morogoro	75.6	66.9	52.3	75	*	*	*	*	11	93.9	75.5	64.9	49.0	86
Pwani	77.1	89.9	69.2	43	*	*	*	*	6	89.2	74.3	80.8	60.7	50
Dar Es Salaam	(74.6)	(42.3)	(42.3)	94	*	*	*	*	23	90.8	74.1	48.1	38.3	117
Lindi	56.6	54.4	28.6	43	*	*	*	*	1	98.3	55.6	53.4	28.1	44
Mtwara	77.4	56.3	47.2	67	*	*	*	*	1	98.6	76.3	53.5	46.5	68
Ruvuma	76.3	69.2	53.0	77	*	*	*	*	2	98.2	76.0	68.2	52.4	79
Iringa	73.9	42.8	36.0	71	*	*	*	*	5	94.3	71.3	41.0	34.6	76
Mbeva	61.2	31.1	27.4	184	*	*	*	*	29	91.6	59.0	26.9	23.7	213
Singida	55.7	68.4	40.5	82	*	*	*	*	11	94.4	53.2	64.3	37.9	93
Tabora	53.0	33.6	15.7	101	29.4	19.9	0.0	0.0	46	77.9	42.6	23.1	10.8	147
Rukwa	59.3	31.2	26.0	82	*	*	*	*	11	89.9	58.3	28.4	22.9	93
Kigoma	63.5	16.1	11.8	114	*	*	*	*	22	86.0	59.1	14.7	9.9	136
Shinyanga	45.7	45.8	26.5	221	*	*	*	*	36	92.6	43.3	40.0	23.4	257
Kagera	38.9	59.8	21.5	152	*	*	*	*	17	94.9	38.2	55.4	20.1	169
Mwanza	44.9	54.4	23.8	199	(39.5)	(34.9)	(53.2)	(22.2)	73	83.8	42.2	54.1	23.4	272
Mara	43.3	24.9	14.7	81	(49.9)	(40.0)	(13.0)	(4.4)	23	89.0	42.6	22.3	12.5	103
Nanyara	56.4	51.4	32.9	66	*	*	*	*	14	90.9	54.1	48.8	28.5	80
Zanzibar North	58.3	57.3	36.5	7	*	*	*	*	1	91.7	56.8	53.3	34.1	8
Zanzibar South	66.7	66.2	48.2	3	*	*	*	*	1	86.2	58.3	56.2	40.1	4
Town West	76.2	59.8	48.3	18	*	*	*	*	3	89.9	69.2	55.5	42.0	22
Pemba North	37.7	33.9	16.7	11	*	*	*	*	2	88.7	35.8	32.5	14.1	13
Pemba South	30.8	31.0	10.1	11	*	*	*	*	2	87.9	29.8	28.9	9.6	13
Mother's education														
No education	47.3	45.1	24.1	564	37.4	31.4	11.6	6.2	91	91.3	45.1	40.4	21.6	656
Primary	58.6	49.4	31.6	1,439	38.5	38.4	24.3	11.0	276	90.1	55.3	45.3	28.2	1,715
Secondary	86.6	55.3	49.4	83	*	*	*	*	11	93.6	86.2	55.0	45.2	95
More than secondary	(81.3)	(48.6)	(48.6)	21	*	*	*	*	1	*	*	*	*	22
Wealth quintile														
Lowest	53.4	44.6	27.2	465	28.1	26.2	13.4	2.3	91	88.3	49.0	39.5	23.1	556
Second	52.8	43.8	26.2	488	42.5	31.0	15.5	8.3	79	92.0	49.7	39.9	23.7	567
Middle	51.5	52.4	28.6	433	33.9	31.6	20.3	13.8	74	90.4	48.6	47.7	26.4	507
Fourth	56.2	47.7	28.1	420	39.0	46.9	26.5	11.9	74	90.8	54.8	44.5	25.6	494
Highest	77.6	57.3	48.3	301	54.5	62.2	41.2	17.4	62	92.2	75.0	54.5	43.1	363
Total	56.9	48.4	30.4	2,108	38.6	38.2	22.3	10.1	380	90.6	54.0	44.4	27.3	2,487

Note: Figures in parentheses are based on 25-49 unweighted cases. An asterisk indicates that a figure is based on fewer than 25 unweighted cases and has been suppressed.

¹ Food groups: a) infant formula, milk other than breast milk, cheese or yogurt or other milk products; b) foods made from grains, roots, and tubers, including porridge and fortified baby food from grains; c) vitamin A-rich fruits and vegetables (and red palm oil); d) other fruits and vegetables; e) eggs; f) meat, poultry, fish, and shellfish (and organ meats); g) legumes and nuts; h) foods made with oil, fat, butter.

² At least twice a day for breastfed infants age 6-8 months and at least three times a day for breastfed children age 9-23 months

³ Includes commercial infant formula, fresh, tinned and powdered animal milk, and cheese, yogurt and other milk products

⁴ Nonbreastfed children age 6-23 months are considered to be fed with three IYCF practices if they receive other milk or milk products and are fed at least the minimum number of food groups, at least the minimum number of times per day.

⁵ 3+ food groups for breastfed children and 4+ food groups for nonbreastfed children

⁶ Fed solid or semisolid food at least twice a day for infants age 6-8 months, 3+ times a day for other breastfed children, and 4+ times a day for nonbreastfed children